

FEB 13 1960

see 1
X
ag 2
W.H. STRINGER

SYMINGTON FACES MISSILE TOPIC CLIMAX

Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Stuart Symington has tremendous stakes in the debate over national defense. The Missouri senator is virtually at a point now of "no retreat" in his challenge of the Eisenhower administration's missile program.

If public opinion should get the impression that Senator Symington is unable to back up his complaint that the administration is misinterpreting the Central Intelligence Agency estimate, his chances for the Democratic nomination could evaporate.



The Game's More Dangerous Than Ever

The burden is now on him to come up with impressive figures on the missile gap. This is difficult, since the government's figures on missiles have a top-secret label and the senator is

under criticism by Republicans for saying too much in public.

One thing that could bail out the senator is another Soviet space spectacular, especially a landing which appears to have military significance.

The record of the past two years shows clearly that the public has been seriously worried about United States space and military efforts — following Soviet successes.